Economic Growth in Kentucky



September 25, 2001 Rm. 131 Capitol Annex Frankfort, KY



The purpose of the meeting was to review opportunities to promote growth and development in an environmentally sound manner. Ms. Dew said the discussion about growth and development would focus on the role of the Economic Development Cabinet in promoting sound development, as well as a report from the Smart Growth Task Force and presentations on the local role in promoting sustainable development.



Jim Navolio, Commissioner of the Department of Business Development with the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, noted that the mission of the Economic Development Cabinet is to create more and higher quality opportunities for all Kentuckians by building and expanding a sustainable economy. The Cabinet works with companies it feels will be good corporate citizens by providing quality jobs to Kentuckians. It also works closely with the Natural Resources Cabinet to ensure these facilities will follow the state's environmental rules and regulations.



Harry Carver, Special Assistant to the Governor, discussed the progress of the Governor's Smart Growth Task Force and addressed urban sprawl and other development concerns. Mr. Carver stated that one of the goals of this administration is to put Kentuckians on the path to achieving economic opportunity and a standard of living about the national average in 20 years. The guiding principles of the task force are that natural, agricultural and cultural resources valuable and central to quality of life in Kentucky; that private property interests should be recognized and preserved; and decision-making should be locally controlled. The final report of the Governor's Smart Growth Task Force can be accessed at http://smartgrowth.state.ky.us/smartgrowthreport.pdf



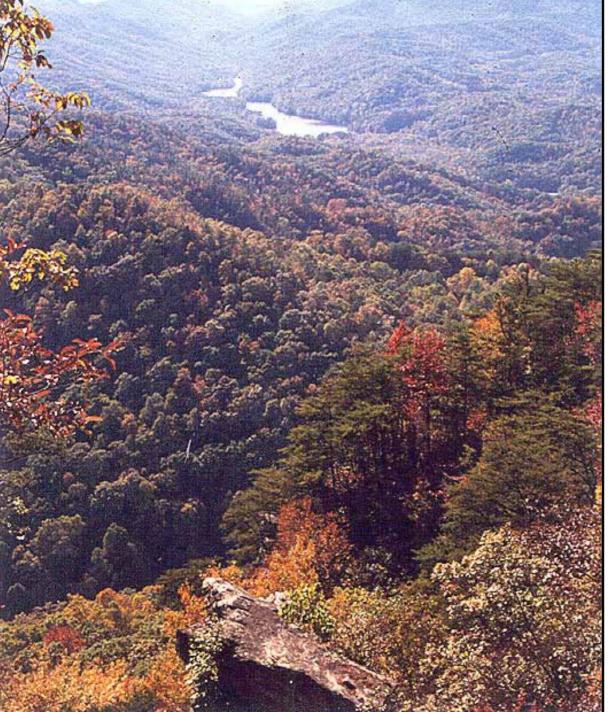
The EQC Chair next introduced Marshall Slagle with the Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission. Mr. Slagle has been with the Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission for about 35 years. He has served as the immediate past president of the Kentucky Chapter of the American Planning Association and has served and worked with the Smart Growth Task Force. Mr. Slagle noted that how well we use our land determines the quality of our life and the quality of the environment. Mr. Slagle discussed the elements of sprawl and he used what is happening in Kenton County in Northern Kentucky as a specific example.



The next speaker was Jean Hibberd, President of Communities by Choice, Berea, Kentucky. Communities by Choice works with communities to advance sustainable development. According to Ms. Hibberd, there are nine things the government can do to help promote sustainable development: recognize interdependence, demonstrate commitment, make decisions based on the economy/ecology/equity, reach out to citizens/communities/businesses/organizations, commit to building long-term capacity, redirect resources, support development of diversified local economies, value ecological services, and demonstrate accountability.



The final speaker was Molly Turner, Director of Community Development with Owsley County Action Team. Ms. Turner noted that sustainable development in Owsley County and in many local areas is going to require local capacity building. The 25 member Owsley County Action Team meets monthly to discuss ideas and try to look at the region in the long-term. The group advises local officials to improve the quality of life in the area.





Picture provided by Frances Kirchhoff